

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00358 151226Z

15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6970

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

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SUBJECT: BRIGADIER GENERAL IOANNIDES DETAINED

1. SUMMARY: BGEN DIMITRIOS IAONNIDES, STRONGMAN OF MILITARY REGIME, WAS REMANDED IN CUSTODY JANUARY 14 ON CHARGES OF HIGH TREASON AND SEDITION. IOANNIDES IN DEFENSE PLEA SAID APRIL 21, 1967 TAKEOVER WAS REVOLUTION AND THAT CIVIL COURT COULD NOT TRY HIM. DEFMIN AVEROFF CHARACTERIZED IOANNIDES AS RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING LIBERTIES OF GREEK PEOPLE. IOANNIDES ARREST COINCIDES WITH PARLIAMENT'S APPROVAL OF CONSTITUENT ACT PROVIDING FOR PROSECUTION OF JUNTA LEADERS AND COMMENCEMENT OF INTERROGATION OF PAPADOPOULOS AND COLLABORATORS ON CHARGES OF TREASON AND ILLEGAL USURPATION OF POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INTERROGATION BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE MID-AFTERNOON JANUARY 14 BGEN IOANNIDES WAS CHARGED WITH HIGH TREASON AND SEDITION FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN APRIL 21, 1967 COUP AND ON RECOMMENDATION OF STATE PROSECUTOR

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00358 151226Z

REMANDED IN CUSTODY AT KORYDALOS PRISON. ACCORDING TO PRESS

ACCOUNTS IOANNIDES READ EIGHT-PAGE DEFENSE STATEMENT TO MAGISTRTE ASSERTING THAT APRIL 21 LEADERS WERE FORCED TO ASSUME POWER TO SAVE NATION FROM COMPLETE DISSOLUTION AND THAT APRIL 21 "REVOLUTION" ESTABLISHED A RIGHT ACCORDING TO CONSCIENCE OF PEOPLE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. IOANNIDES REPORTEDLY CHARGED POLITICAL LEADERS OF SHORTCOMINGS THAT HAD DESTROYED DEMOCRACY IN GREECE ON SEVRAL OCCASIONS. IOANNIDES CONCLUDED THAT NOVEMBER 25, 1973 REVOLUTION WAS CONTINUATION OF APRIL 21, 1967 REGIME AND HAD BEEN GRANTED DE FACTO AND DE JURE RECOGNITION BY FIRST POLITICAL GOVERNMENT OF JULY 24, 1974 AND STILL RETAINED "CONSTITUENT AUTHORITY."

3. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON IOANNIDES DEFENSE PLEA COMMENTED THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT CONVERSANT WITH DETAILS OF TEXT, HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION STATEMENT WAS FULL OF FICTIONS AND INACCURACIES "WHICH WAS NATURAL FROM MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE...FOR DESTROYING LIBERTIES OF GREEK PEOPLE AND LEADING COUNTRY TO RAVE NATIONAL DISASTER..."

4. ARREST OF IOANNIDES COINCIDES WITH PARLIAMENT'S ADOPTION DRAFT CONSTITUENT ACT (ATHENS 234) WHICH LABELS APRIL 21, 1967 MILITARY TAKEOVER AS COUP D'ETAT AND NOT "REVOLUTION" AND PROVIDES LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR PROSECUTION OF ALL RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THAT DATE UNTIL JULY 23, 1974. OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS GEORGE MAVORS (CU/NF) AND ANDREAS PAPANDREOU (PASOK) STRESSED ON FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT THAT ALL MINISTERS, UNDER SECRETARIES AND SECRETARIES GENERAL OF MINISTRIES

ASSOCIATED WITH COUP SHOULD ALSO BE TRIED. JUSTICE MINISTER STEPHANAKIS ADDED CAVEAT THAT PROSECUTION WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER APRIL 21 COUP IS TO BE CONSIDERED AS ENDURING FOR ONE DAY, I.E. APRIL 2, 1967 OR OVER PERIOD APRIL 21, 1967 UNTIL JULY 23, 1974. MEANWHILE INTERROGATION OF KEA FIVE, APAPADOPOULOS, PATTAKOS, MAKAREZOS, LADAS AND ROUFOGALIS, IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON KEA TODAY.

5. ATHENS PRESS REPORTED PROMINENTLY AND POSITIVELY NEWS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 00358 151226Z

OF IOANNIDES ARREST. PUBLIC SEEMS SATISFIED WITH MEASURE AND ATHENS APPEARS CALM ALTHOUGH QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ARMED FORCES REACTION IS BEING ASKED QUIETLY. KUBISCH

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